

Branch plant is to print 'greenbacks'

By Roger Boye

The U.S. Treasury plans to make "greenbacks" in Ft. Worth by 1989 at the first such government printing plant to be built outside of Washington, D.C.

Eventually, the Ft. Worth facility should produce about one-fourth of all U.S. paper money, with the remainder still made at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing building in Washington. The Ft. Worth plant will reduce the cost of sending newly printed bills to Federal Reserve banks and reduce the threat of a currency crisis if the Washington office is destroyed by fire or other means.

The selection of Ft. Worth ended a multi-year search that included dozens of cities. Federal workers probably will make nearly 7 billion Federal Reserve notes this year worth about \$70 billion.

● The U.S. Mint will make no Kennedy half dollars for circulation this year in an attempt to reduce huge inventories of the coins in government vaults.

Uncle Sam has enough halves in storage to meet expected demand from the banking system for at least two years. Nevertheless, the mint still will strike some 1987-dated halves for inclusion in proof and uncirculated coin sets sold to collectors.

Mint directors took similar action in 1970 to relieve a glut of the little-used coins.

● A Rockford coin dealer is selling an unusual hoard of "junk money" by the pound, in part to regain total use of his garage.

Dealer Rich Hartzog bought 3,000 pounds of tokens and foreign coins, which came from vending machines or toll-road collection boxes in the Chicago area. The accumulation—stored in Hartzog's garage—includes many video-arcade tokens, some foreign coins and other token types used as quarter substitutes.

Hartzog said he is charging \$9.50 for an unsearched one-pound lot and \$31.75 for five pounds, with at least 90 pieces to the pound [prices include sales tax and shipping expenses]. To order, send a check to World Exonumia, P.O. Box 4143, Rockford, Ill. 61110.